

Parent Handbook



Kindergarten

4326-148th Street SE
Mill Creek, WA 98012

Located on the campus of
Gold Creek Community Church

www.kidsatthecreek.com

Our Parent Handbook contains important information about our practices, policies, and philosophy. Each program is designed to carry a child's early learning experience consistently for the length of its term. It is our commitment to you and your child to provide a fun, safe, and meaningful environment with trained and loving

staff. Our curriculum is designed to be age-appropriate, reflecting the latest studies in early childhood education.



Mission Statement

At Kids at the Creek, our mission is to provide a safe and loving space that fosters learning and growth in the children we serve. We believe that every child deserves to feel valued and nurtured. This is why we strive to instill a sense of belonging and community in all that we do.

Through our play-based activities, we aim to promote a love of learning in each child and build a strong foundation for their future academic success. We also understand the importance of socialization and conflict resolution skills. We recognize the importance of teaching children to interact in groups, equipping them with skills to resolve conflicts positively and constructively.

We believe that building self-esteem is an important part of child development. We model independence, self-care, and care for others to instill a sense of confidence and self-worth in each child.

At Kids at the Creek, we are committed to nurturing every aspect of a child's development while fostering a positive and supportive environment that enables families to thrive. Our early learning program focuses on creating a space where children can grow and learn holistically.

General Information

School Office Hours: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, Monday-Friday

Phone (425) 931-8092 Fax (425) 222-2323

info@kidsatthecreek.com

KATC Mill Creek Campus

4326 148th St SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012

Directors:

Valerie Stiger, vstiger@kidsatthecreek.com

Sarah Lenaburg, slenaburg@kidsatthecreek.com

Kids at the Creek does not discriminate in the admission of students based on race, color, national origin, sex, or ability, as required by federal and state laws to the extent that it applies to the preschool. KATC Preschool reserves the right to modify, supplement, rescind, or revise any policy, with or without notice, as it deems necessary. Please refer to the ADA policy for further information.

At Kids at the Creek Preschool & Kindergarten, we take your family's privacy seriously. In accordance with WAC 110-300-0460, all child records—including immunization data—are stored in a secure, confidential manner. We use this information strictly for health safety and state compliance; your data is never sold, shared with third parties, or used for marketing purposes.

Tuition

Tuition is based upon the actual number of class days fiscally. This includes adjustments for holidays, teacher in-service days, and potential weather-related closures. These days are then divided into 10 equal installments for ease and continuity. For further details, please see the Tuition Table of Programs and Schedules.

Fees

Our annual enrollment fee of \$200 is due upon registration. This fee applies to each family once per year. The Building and Materials fee is due on or before July 1st. These fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Tuition Table of Programs and Schedules

Your Kindergarten contract with KATC will start on July 1st. On this date, the tuition deposit is required, along with the Building/Materials fee, both of which are non-refundable and non-transferable. The tuition deposit will be applied directly to June's tuition. *For your convenience, the remaining annual tuition is divided into equal payments to be made over the months the school is in session (September to June), as outlined in your contract.*

Due Dates	Half Day Kindergarten	Full Day Kindergarten
Registration Fee At time of enrollment	\$200	\$200
Building/Materials Fee July 1	\$525	\$525
Tuition Deposit July 1	\$725	\$925
Monthly Tuition	\$725	\$925
Yearly Tuition	\$7,250	\$9,250

Payment Policies

Online accounts are set up at the time of registration. As a courtesy, tuition payments are automatically processed on the **10th of each month with no late fees.** You may make a payment at any time prior to the 10th. Payments made by check are due on the first day of the month. Checks received after the 5th are considered late and will incur late fees. Insufficient funds will incur a late fee of \$25 unless prior arrangements have been made with the bookkeeper or the Directors. We reserve the right to drop a child from the program due to non-payment of tuition past 30 days or more. All accounts must be up to date to register for a new school year.

Discounts

A 3% discount is available for full-year tuition paid by August 1st, using ECheck, cash, or check payments only, applicable only to students completing the academic year. There is also a sibling discount of \$35 per month for each additional child. Please consult the Director for more details.

Withdrawal from the Program

If you wish to remove your child from our program and avoid additional tuition charges, you must provide us with **written notice at least 45 days in advance**. Any applicable refunds or fees will be processed once we receive a written notice. Your Deposit and Building/Materials fees are non-refundable.

Re-enrollment Fee

In the event that a parent decides to terminate their child's enrollment contract in our program and subsequently wishes to re-enroll at a later stage, an administrative fee of \$50 will be charged.

Bookkeeping information

Bookkeeping email: accounts@kidsatthecreek.com

School Holidays/ Important Dates

The school calendar will be available at the start of the school year both as a pdf, on ChildPilot, and our website.

Long Term Absences or Extended Vacations

Tuition must be paid monthly and will not be prorated for extended absences. **We do not discount tuition for family vacations**. Unless paid in advance, KATC has the right to fill your child's spot during an unpaid absence. Sorry, no exceptions.

Snow Days

School closures may occur due to snow or emergencies. We follow the Everett School District's guidelines. For any weather-related delays, please check your Child Pilot Messages for schedule updates.

Sick Child Policy

Please keep your child home if he/she appears to have symptoms of illness such as a persistent cough or runny nose. Keep your child home for 24 hours following fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. Must be free of any fever-reducing medications 24 hours prior to reentering school. You will be contacted immediately to pick up your child if they become ill during the day. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date. Due to insurance and liability, we cannot administer any medications or injections. If your child becomes ill with a highly contagious condition such as pink eye, impetigo, lice, or hand/foot/mouth disease, please inform us immediately so that we may notify the other families in your child's class. All parties remain anonymous. Your child may return to school upon clearance from the doctor or approval from the directors, provided there are no remaining symptoms or evidence of illness.

Immunization Forms

To comply with state licensing requirements (WAC 110-300-0460), all students must have completed immunization records or an exemption on file before their first day of enrollment.

- **Deadline:** Please submit or update all records by August 1st.
- **Submission:** Files should be uploaded directly to our secure Child Pilot App.
- **Requirements:** No child will be permitted to start the program without verified records and a signed parent acknowledgment.
- **Late Fee:** Please note that a \$30 late penalty will be applied to accounts for records not received by the deadline.

Allergies

Our program will provide snacks daily for all children. If your child has a significant food allergy or medical problem, discuss this with the Director and your child's teacher. If we cannot accommodate the allergy, we may request that you send in their daily snack. If your child requires an EpiPen for allergies, it is required that you complete an allergy authorization form and provide a labeled EpiPen.

ADA Policy

KATC accepts all children to the extent that it is reasonably able to provide its services consistently and congruently. Parents have an obligation to disclose significant medical, physical, or behavioral issues in writing at the time of enrollment and on an ongoing basis. Due to the size of our program, we are unable to provide one-on-one care for any child except in cases such as an injury, immediate discipline or previously agreed upon issues at the Director's discretion. We strive to include all children and will work with families to make sure that our program is a good fit for your child.

Security

After drop off, the front doors may be locked for security purposes. Please keep Kids At The Creek's phone number handy in the event you need to contact us. 425-931-8092

Parental Concerns

We value open communication with our families. Please feel free to contact the Director or teacher if you have any questions or concerns. If you choose to contact the teacher, please arrange to do so outside of classroom hours, not during pick up or drop off, as your child's teacher will be solely focused on our students during this time. Your teacher's email address will be provided to you, or you may leave a message in ChildPilot for the teacher to call you or set up an appointment. Our students are our number one priority, and we will be able to give you our full attention after all students have been dismissed.

Discipline and Peer Conflict Resolution

Learning positive social interactions is essential in our program, and we aim for every child to succeed. We use the "Nurtured Heart Approach" to help children respond positively in class and with peers. To encourage self-management skills, our teachers will explain acceptable and unacceptable behaviors. In cases of conflict, we promote compromise and reconciliation. If needed, teachers or the Director may request a conference with parents to address ongoing behavioral issues. We understand that children can express intense emotions. If a child is having a difficult day, we may ask you to pick them up due to behaviors such as biting, using excessive physical force or inappropriate behavior. Removing the child from the classroom for the day is often the most effective response, allowing them to return with a fresh start on their next school day. If a child's behavior consistently disrupts the class or poses a risk to others, the Director may remove them from the program. In instances where consistent physical safety of others is at risk, we will temporarily suspend enrollment until the child is ready to participate safely in the group. This measure is intended to support the development of appropriate social skills during this time.

Transitional Period

Many preschool-age children feel separation anxiety when they are in new places. We have found that a quick "kiss and go" helps reduce this anxiety. Children look to the adults in their lives for emotional support, so if parents are positive and reassuring, it can help children adjust to preschool more easily. Most children will calm down after a few minutes in their classroom. If your child cries for more than 20 minutes, an Admin will contact you. If your child continues to cry excessively, we may determine that they are not yet ready for preschool and suggest alternative options. A two-week trial period for any program is usually enough time for us to see if a child is ready for group learning. When new challenges come up, we will help your child learn to express their frustrations and give them tools to succeed.

Daily Arrival

Children may be dropped off no earlier than 10 minutes prior to the start of class. Shortly after the first week of school, we will offer free curbside valet service. If you would like to take advantage of this service [see Valet for important details.](#)

Valet - See also the back of your valet sign

We are pleased to offer free curbside valet service for drop-off and pick-up. Please have your child seated directly behind the passenger seat with bags, shoes, and coats ready to go. Staff can not unbuckle/buckle your child. Place the valet card in the window or on the windshield. Pull forward in the valet line, and one of our friendly staff members will escort your child safely into the building. Valet services will start shortly after the start of the school year, a ChildPilot message will announce the start. We ask you remain in your vehicle throughout the valet service for everyone's safety.

Dismissal

Your child will only be released to the parent or authorized adult. If another adult is picking up your child and is not listed on the Authorization List submitted at the time of registration, please notify the teacher or office in advance. Please pick your child up promptly (within 5 minutes of dismissal) to avoid late fees.

Late Pick-up

Charges for late pick-ups will be assessed and added to your account (\$5 will be assessed for every 5-minute interval that you are late). Parents are responsible for late charges even if your daycare provider or other authorized adult is late. To clarify, after 5 minutes, late charges will begin to be applied.

Parking Lot

Your child's safety is our priority. Allow ample time for drop-off and watch for children in the parking lot. Keep children supervised and do not leave them unattended in cars. Always use marked crosswalks for safety.

Curriculum

KATC's kindergarten curriculum is aligned with the Washington State Common Core standards and is designed to follow a logical sequence that naturally builds and strengthens skills throughout the whole school year. Math and literacy skills are first introduced in a whole group setting and then practiced in small groups (3-5 students at a time) with engaging and hands-on activities. KATC focuses on skill mastery. Students are assessed on their consistent demonstration of a skill. If they can do it, it is mastered. If they cannot, it's still developing. Formal skill assessments occur four times per year.

Our literacy program is a balanced approach that explicitly teaches phonics, phonemic awareness, sight words, and comprehension. Students authentically apply these skills when reading decodable stories, mapping words, and writing stories. Our math program applies research-based strategies to develop number sense to 100, operations and algebraic thinking, geometry, data collection, and measurement. Students participate in "counting collections" to apply number sense and mathematical reasoning in a meaningful way. Throughout the year, we have several Storybook STEM weeks. These weeks integrate a beloved children's story with science, engineering, and art. Because healthy bodies and minds are just as important as academic skills, we take time to teach students about growth mindsets, positive affirmations, and have PE once per week. Daily, students are provided opportunities to practice collaboration, self-regulation, self-help, communication, and decision-making skills.

Daily Classroom Communication

Both administrators and teachers utilize the ChildPilot App to communicate with families. Teachers are expected to share updates through pictures and written messages at least once a week. This will be communicated with your child's teacher and the school. The app is free to download. Once your child is enrolled, you will receive an invitation from the school to get started.

Class Snacks

KATC provides snacks for students. We do ask that parents provide a small, leakproof water bottle for their child to carry in daily. If a parent provides a school-approved snack it must meet county food service standards; all snacks must be purchased from a licensed provider (grocery store) in sealed containers or packaging. Perishable foods such as fruits or vegetables must be prepared (washed and cut) on site, not at home.

Lunch and Snacks

****Lunch and Snacks:**** Full-day students will have a 30-minute lunch break each day, while half-day students will have a daily snack time. Parents are responsible for providing lunch and snacks, which must be "ready to eat." Please note that

we are unable to refrigerate or heat any food items. Additionally, no peanuts or tree nuts are allowed, but Sunbutter is acceptable.

Birthday Snack

We will celebrate each child's birthday during snack time on the day closest to their actual birthday. A birthday snack form will be sent home with guidelines for store-bought snacks. Due to food allergies—please do not bring home-prepared foods. If you distribute party invitations at school, all classmates must be invited to ensure all children feel included.

Outdoor Play

Outdoor playtime will be encouraged whenever the weather permits. We have an inviting playground, and we will attempt to go outside even when it's cold, so be sure to send a jacket with your child. Additionally, we have full access to an indoor gym, allowing us to hold indoor play times and group activities on rainy or extremely cold days.

Clothing

Be sure to dress your child in clothes that are comfortable and easy for them to use the restroom independently. Footwear should be sturdy and suitable for outdoor play. Please refrain from wearing open-back shoes, Crocs, or flip-flops. Our curriculum features various messy materials, including paint and glue, that may stain clothing. Avoid dressing your child in clothes that require assistance, such as belts, overalls, or buttons that are difficult to fasten.

GC Café

As a member of KATC, you're invited to enjoy the Gold Creek Café, which offers coffee, snacks, lunch, and free Wi-Fi. Please supervise your children in the café and lobby areas and remind them to treat these spaces with respect, as they are workplaces for the public and the church. We ask that children **do not run, jump, climb on furniture, or play in the fountain**. Thank you for your cooperation.